

157

The Honorable Albert C. Hall  
Assistant Secretary (Intelligence)  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Al:

In accordance with my request, an Ad Hoc Working Group of USIB's Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) has forwarded its conclusions to me with respect to the size and configuration of the Laserfax network which we have been considering. The report of the Working Group is attached. In it they recommend an initial 10-station network -- out of a potential of 30 or more stations -- to conduct limited tests in a real, operational environment.

Our experience with this initial network -- under actual operating conditions -- should help us decide whether a network of this size will suffice, whether we need an expanded Laserfax network, or whether we need a more sophisticated capability, such as the video system which DIA has been experimenting with. At the same time, the network will provide me and others in the Community with a minimum operational

157

capability for rapidly providing crisis-related, time-sensitive imagery to national-level decision makers. It would also provide a potential for the more rapid and more regular exchange of imagery between and among intelligence analysts and photo interpreters.

I concur in and am proceeding with installation of [three of] the four Agency-associated terminals and the two other non-DoD terminals -- one at the White House and one at the State Department -- which the IHC Group has recommended. In view of your expressed reservations about the total number of stations to be included in this initial network, however, I seek your assistance in deciding which of the four recommended DoD stations should be included in the initial network. I would assume, for example, that you would agree that a terminal should be located in the NMIC.

An early response to this query would be appreciated so that we can proceed with final contract definition as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby

Attachment  
As stated